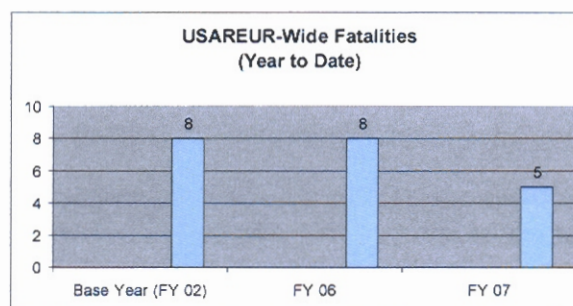
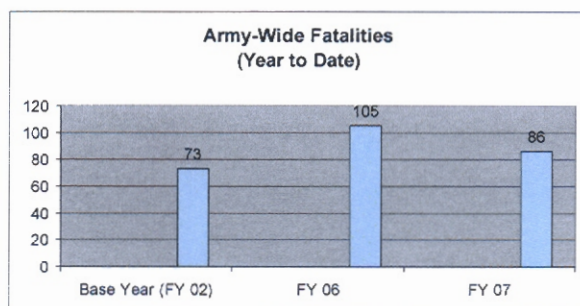




20 March 2007

### **Safety Update #1 Current Status of Fiscal Year 2007**

1. As the midpoint of the fiscal year (FY) approaches, we need to review our safety status and determine what we are doing right in terms of accident prevention and where we need to do better. This review is a new initiative that will be repeated periodically and will become a regular part of our safety efforts.
2. The objective of the review is to examine current accident information and measure our progress toward meeting the Secretary of Defense goal of a 75-percent reduction in accidents by FY 08, using FY 02 as the base year. The review also gives us a means of measuring our progress toward our desired end state of *No Accidental Loss of Life*.
3. The Army and USAREUR goal for FY 07 is 20 percent fewer accidents than in FY 06. As of the end of February 2007, the United States Army Combat Readiness Center (USACRC) accident report database shows the following accidental Soldier deaths:



4. So far this year, USAREUR has experienced three Class A accidents that resulted in five fatalities. Two privately owned vehicle (POV) accidents claimed the lives of three Soldiers, and two other Soldiers died as result of a personal injury accident when they were struck by a train. Each of these fatalities represents a flaw in our organizational defense against accidents. While fatalities in USAREUR are slightly less than last year and the base year, we can and must do better to reduce them even more.
5. Our losses are consistent with the Army-wide trend and show that POV accidents remain the greatest threat to our Soldiers. Of the 13 USAREUR fatalities last year, 8 involved a POV or motorcycle. In addition, all but two fatalities occurred off duty. This information tells us that we need to direct our attention toward vehicle safety and the off-duty activities of our Soldiers. The following USACRC webpages provide safety videos that commanders may use to address these concerns:

<https://crc.army.mil/streamingvideo/videolist.asp?video=1099>  
<https://crc.army.mil/streamingvideo/videolist.asp?category=102>

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6. Some leaders may feel that little can be done to influence the off-duty behavior of our Soldiers. I strongly disagree. There are many things we can do, such as—

- Identifying risk-takers and taking appropriate action to limit their ability to take risks. This may include assessing their off-duty activities, driving privileges, or travel plans. This type of action demonstrates both discipline and concern.
- Promoting a safety culture in the organization:

**Develop an Informed Culture:** Keep people informed about the hazards and risks associated with certain types of activities, provide alternatives, and work continuously to identify and overcome threats to safety.

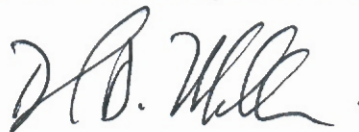
**Promote a Just Culture:** Errors are understandable, but willful violations of established safety standards must not occur. Talk to your Soldiers and be sure they understand what is considered appropriate and inappropriate behavior. Hold everyone to an achievable, fair, equal, and just standard.

**Encourage a Reporting Culture:** Solutions cannot be identified and implemented until we know the problems. Encourage everyone to report unsafe conditions, activities, and behavior without fear of reprisal. Thoroughly address every safety concern brought to your attention and provide feedback. Let people know that their concerns are being heard.


**Support a Learning Culture:** Encourage everyone to develop and apply their own skills and knowledge to enhance organizational safety. Provide regular feedback on safety issues. Share information on accidents or close calls so everyone can benefit from the lessons learned.

- Promoting an attitude of high expectations, both on and off duty, and recognizing and rewarding appropriate behavior. This includes setting organizational goals for accident-free timelines and providing meaningful and suitable incentives for meeting these goals.

7. Until safety is a core value in all organizations, we will continue to have accidents. Instilling this value will require a team effort. My challenge to you is to do something every day to support a safety culture, both on and off duty, as a first step in fighting one of our greatest enemies: accidental loss of life. Leadership and continuous, open communications between those leaders and their Soldiers, families and civilians will always enhance our safety efforts.



DAVID D. McKIERNAN  
General, USA  
Commanding



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